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10/081,446	02/20/2002	James M. Clauss	109859-130053	3040
26181	7590	08/23/2005	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. PO BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			BADERMAN, SCOTT T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/081,446
Filing Date: February 20, 2002
Appellant(s): CLAUSS ET AL.

Brenda Leeds Binder
(Limited Recognition No. L0058)
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed August 5, 2005.

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(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) *Status of Claims*

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) *Status of Amendments After Final*

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(8) *Claims Appealed*

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) *Prior Art of Record*

6,397,117	Burrows et al.	5-2002
5,740,354	Ben-Natan et al.	4-1998
6,115,544	Mueller	9-2000

(10) *Grounds of Rejection*

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 16-23, 26-33 and 36-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrows et al. (6,397,117) in view of Ben-Natan et al. (5,740,354).

As in claims 16, 26 and 36, Burrows discloses a computer-implemented method and system for manipulating a computer design of operation by a computer aided design (CAD) application that comprises receiving a user input to perform an operation on a CAD design and generating a failure indication (error message) upon detecting a failure during performance of the operation (Figure 3, Abstract, column 1: lines 11-14, column 4: lines 50-61) (Although Burrows does not specifically disclose detecting a failure, it is implied since during the operation, an analysis is performed and the results are returned to the user, wherein the results can include an error message). However, Burrows does not clearly disclose providing information to the user to facilitate the user in determining a location of a cause of the failure within the CAD design and information about how to recover from the failure. Ben-Natan discloses a method for error handling, wherein an error message that is returned as a result of a failure includes information to facilitate a user in determining a location of a cause of the failure and information about how to recover from the failure (Figures 9-12, column 1: lines 5-66).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include providing information to the user to facilitate the user in determining a location of a cause of the failure within the CAD design and information about how to recover from the

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failure into the method and system taught by Burrows above. This would have been obvious because both Burrows and Ben-Natan teach of generating error messages, wherein Ben-Natan further teaches that it is beneficial to supply error messages that are meaningful to a user so that they will be useful in understanding and aid the user to remediate the error (column 1: lines 5-66).

As in claims 17, 27 and 37, Burrows (column 1: lines 11-14) and Ben-Natan (column 1: lines 55-66) disclose detecting an occurrence of one or more software events that are to result in at least one of an error.

As in claims 18, 28 and 38, Ben-Natan discloses generating and displaying a user interface having a title indicative of the operation (e.g., "Could not open expenses.xls") during which operation, the failure was encountered (Figures 9-12, column 1: lines 55-66).

As in claims 19, 29 and 39, Ben-Natan discloses generating and displaying one or more expandable error messages (i.e., when a user selects a displayed error report, all of the error reports relating to the same error as the selected error report are displayed (expanded) together) (column 14: lines 2-5).

As in claims 20, 30 and 40, Ben-Natan discloses generating and displaying one or more error messages in a hierarchical manner (column 13: line 60 – column 14: line 11).

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As in claims 21, 31 and 41, Ban-Natan discloses facilitating receiving an indication of at least one of editing, canceling and accepting the failure (i.e., since the user can remediate the error using the error message, it must have accepted the failure (column 1: lines 55-66).

As in claims 22, 32 and 42, Ben-Natan discloses generating and displaying a message having a suggestion for solving the failure (i.e., meaningful error messages provide a suggestion as to what to do next) (Figures 9-12, column 1: lines 55-66).

As in claims 23, 33 and 43, Burrows discloses that after performing an analysis, the results are returned to the user either in the form of textual or graphical information, or as a file representing a completed design, which suggests that the results visually indicate a portion of the CAD design associated with a failure, if one is detected (column 4: lines 50-61).

Claims 24, 25, 34, 35, 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrows et al. and Ben-Natan et al., as applied to claims 23, 33 and 43 above, and further in view of Mueller (6,115,544).

As in claims 24, 34 and 44, Burrows and Ben-Natan disclose the method and system above. However, neither clearly discloses highlighting a portion of the CAD design associated with the failure. Mueller discloses a method and system for displaying error message, wherein the error will is highlighted (column 3: lines 31-34, column 4: lines 19-22 and 48-62).

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It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include highlighting a portion of the CAD design associated with the failure into the method and system taught by Burrows and Ben-Natan above. This would have been obvious because Burrows clearly teaches that the results of the analysis are returned to the user either in the form of textual or graphical information (column 4: lines 50-61), and Mueller clearly suggests that by highlighting the error allows the user to identify the error quicker and enhances the type of error that occurred (column 3: lines 31-34, column 4: lines 19-22 and 48-62).

As in claims 25, 35 and 45, Burrows, Ben-Natan and Mueller disclose the method and system above. Further, Burrows specifically discloses that the results of the analysis are returned to the user either in the form of textual or “graphical” information (column 4: lines 50-61), and Mueller discloses that errors can be distinguished by generating and displaying a graphical representation of a “stop sign” or “yield sign” (column 5: lines 30-45). However, neither Burrows nor Mueller specifically disclose generating and displaying a graphical representation of a light bulb.

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include generating and displaying a graphical representation of a light bulb into the method and system taught by Burrows, Ben-Natan and Mueller above. This would have been obvious because Mueller clearly teaches that graphical representations (or icons), which suggest or imply further meaning into what they represent (e.g., a stop sign for fatal errors) can be used (column 5: lines 30-45). This would have suggested to a person skilled in the art that other graphical representations (or icons) (e.g., a light bulb) could also be incorporated into the system

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taught by Mueller above and have a similar meaning without affecting the overall operation of Mueller.

(11) *Response to Argument*

With respect to claims 16-45, the Applicant first argues that Ben-Natan et al. does not teach or suggest a CAD application or a CAD design. The Examiner asserts that Burrows et al. was used to address this limitation.

Second, the Applicant argues that there is no motivation to combine Burrows et al. with Ben-Natan et al. being that Burrows does not specifically address the problem of failure indication and has no motivation to address this problem, and that Ben-Natan has nothing to do with CAD applications. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Burrows et al. clearly teaches that a user completes a form and then submits it to a CAD server, wherein the CAD server processes the data received (e.g., performs some form of analysis, synthesis or simulation, as required by the task concerned) and then returns the results to the user, textually or graphically (column 4: lines 50-61). Burrows et al. further discloses that the CAD tool is enabled to process and display results, error messages and so on to the user (column 1: lines 11-14). The Examiner asserts that since Burrows et al. teaches of generating error messages in response to the user inputting data into a CAD tool, that this clearly meets the limitation of “detecting a failure during performance of an operation on a CAD design.”

Although Ben-Natan et al. does not specifically teach of CAD applications, the Examiner asserts that Ben-Natan et al. was sought only to teach the limitation of “providing information to a user to facilitate the user in determining a location of a cause of the failure and information

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about how to recover from the failure.” As stated in the rejections above, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include the process of providing information to the user to facilitate the user in determining a location of a cause of the failure within the CAD design and information about how to recover from the failure into the method and system taught by Burrows above. This would have been obvious because both Burrows and Ben-Natan teach of generating error messages, wherein Ben-Natan further teaches that it is beneficial to supply error messages that are meaningful to a user so that they will be useful in understanding and aid the user to remediate the error (column 1: lines 5-66). The Examiner asserts that the statement above is a clear motivation to combine Burrows et al. and Ben-Natan et al. Further, the fact that Ben-Natan et al. teaches “that it is beneficial to supply error messages that are meaningful to a user so that they will be useful in understanding and aid the user to remediate the error (column 1: lines 5-66)” clearly shows a reasonable expectation of success.

The Applicant also argues that neither Burrows et al. nor Ben-Natan et al., alone or in combination, disclose the limitation of “providing information to a user to facilitate the user in determining a location of a cause of the failure and information about how to recover from the failure.” The Applicant specifically argues that by “merely providing an error report that indicates the presence of an error to a user does not provide information about how to recover from the failure.” The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner directs the Applicant to Figures 9-12 of Ben-Natan et al., wherein it is clearly shown that one of the error messages in the error report reads, “Could not open file expenses.xls – corrupted”. The Examiner asserts that this alone teaches of the specific location of

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the failure (file expenses.xls), the cause of the failure (corruption) and information about how to recover from the failure (i.e., it suggests that the file needs to be replaced with an uncorrupted one).

It appears that the Applicant takes the position that an error message can not “suggest” how to recover from a failure like the Examiner pointed out above. However, the Applicant’s own invention that contains the error message “modeling error: shell too thick” only identifies an error and “suggests” that by making the shell thinner would recover from the failure.

Further, as pointed out in the rejections above, Ben-Natan et al. clearly teaches that it is beneficial to supply error messages that are meaningful to a user so that they will be useful in understanding and remediating the error (column 1: lines 5-66). The term “remediate” means “to recover or fix.” Therefore, the Examiner strongly disagrees with the Applicant’s position that the error messages taught by Ben-Natan do provide information about how to recover from a failure.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

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Respectfully submitted,



Scott T Baderman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2113

STB

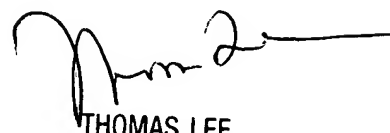
August 17, 2005

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